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**DRIEHAUS VOTES TO
EXPAND BENEFITS FOR DISABLED MILITARY RETIREES**

WASHINGTON, DC—Representative Steve Driehaus today voted to expand benefits for disabled military retirees and welcomed passage in the House of Representatives of legislation that would increase support for servicemembers who are retired because of disability. The Disabled Military Retiree Relief Act of 2009 would temporarily expand the eligibility of more disabled military retirees to receive both retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability pay.

“Our military retirees have earned our respect and gratitude through their service and sacrifice, and we need to ensure that they have the support they need. This measure will help to ease the burden on disabled military retirees by expanding the time they can receive disability benefits. I’m proud to support this bill and I am committed to serving our veterans and military retirees as well as they have served us,” said Rep. Driehaus.

The Disabled Military Retiree Relief Act would temporarily expand the eligibility of military retirees to simultaneously receive military retirement pay and VA disability compensation. Under the legislation, the eligibility would include servicemembers who are retired for disability with less than 20 years of service who have been rated 90 percent or 100 percent disabled. The period of eligibility would begin on January 1, 2010 and end on September 30, 2010.

Representative Driehaus is committed to working to ensure that veterans and military retirees have the support and resources they have earned. In March, Rep. Driehaus introduced the Veterans Mental Health Accessibility Act, which would make it easier for veterans struggling with mental illness to receive VA benefits.

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